

Presenting Sponsor:



THE CAKE

A decorative flourish consisting of symmetrical scrollwork and floral motifs.

By
Bekah Brunstetter

Oct. 7–Nov. 6, 2022

Directed by
Kim Clark-Kaczmarek

Scenic Designer

Sophie Knauss

Lighting Designer

Erica Maholmes

Costume Designer

Jocelyn Reed

Sound Designer

John Gibilisco

Stage Manager

Paige Amick

Assistant Director / OCP Directing Fellow

Amber Franklin

Properties Master

Andrew Morgan

Resident Scenic Artist

Janet Morr

Production Coordinator

Greg Scheer

Technical Director

Darrin Golden

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Disclaimer: Contains adult language and brief nudity.

Originally produced in New York City by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director, Barry Grove, Executive Producer on February 12, 2019

THE CAKE was originally produced by The Echo Theater Company, Los Angeles, California
Chris Fields, Artistic Director Jesse Cannady, Producing Director

THE CAKE received a developmental reading at The Alley Theatre
Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director / Dean R. Gladden, Managing Director

THE CAKE was developed at The Ojai Playwrights Conference
Robert Egan, Artistic Director/Producer

Growth and Acceptance

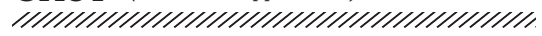
Growing up in the middle of Nebraska, let's be honest, I lived a pretty sheltered life. It wasn't until I started junior high that my optics began to open up. I took a drama class. In that drama class, we read plays and stories about people outside of our little slice of the world. Then I went to high school, and the lens became even bigger, and then to college. It was my first visit back home after college that I saw a shift. I saw myself growing and my heart opening up to many things I had never been exposed to. The community I grew up in stayed, for the most part, the same. Opening your heart and mind to growth is a challenging task for many people.

In Bekah Brunstetter's *The Cake*, growth and acceptance are key themes. In order to grow and accept, listening takes on a major role. We can become so involved in our bubbles that looking around and truly listening to those around us becomes one of life's biggest challenges. I think that many of us will be able to identify with the characters in this play. Each person is ultimately struggling for the same thing, to be loved, to be accepted for who they are and to be heard. One might say they have several layers, like a cake! Whatever metaphor we choose to relate to 😊.

I will admit that I am obsessed with all things cake. I love going to weddings. I enjoy a church lady luncheon after a funeral. Birthdays have become so important to me, birthdays with friends, birthdays with family and work birthdays! Graduation receptions! Retirement parties! Even feeling depressed, I find myself comforted by the delightful combination of sugar and flour. All these things go back to one thing, cake. Cake brings us all together emotionally and symbolically for all the major moments of our lives. At the end of our play, the audience is invited to eat cake together. It is like saying, "we have our differences, but we can all still come together." Cake is binding. Cake is forbidden. Cake is naughty. Cake is love. Cake is funny. Cake is nostalgic. I think this is why Jen wants Della to make her wedding cake so badly. She wants acceptance. Every character here wants acceptance. Don't we all?

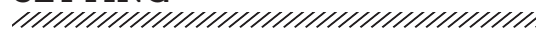


CAST (In Order of Appearance)



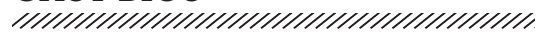
Della Kathleen Combs
Macy Delaney Jackson
Voice of George Brady Patsy
Jen Roz Parr
Tim Doug Rothgeb

SETTING



North Carolina: A Bakery; A Home
Time: Now

CAST BIOS



Kathleen Combs *She/Her/Hers*
Della

Kathleen Combs is excited to return to the Omaha Community Playhouse for *The Cake* after taking a hiatus, last appearing in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* in 1987. Other theatre credits include playing the role of Brooke Ashton in *Noises Off* (1987) at OCP, Holly in *Last Bus to Palookaville* (1987), and Antonietta Pirandello in *Pirandello's Wife* (1989) at Cal Poly Theater in California. Combs got her start as a teaching artist at OCP in 1986 and was instantly hooked. From there, she taught creative drama and movement throughout Los Angeles, California and Tokyo, Japan. She worked as a creative drama specialist at Wild Rose School of Creative Arts in Monrovia, California. There Combs implemented a creative drama integration program for transitional kindergarten through fifth grade, led professional development sessions in creative drama integration for teachers and administrators, and created an after-school drama club. After moving back to Omaha in 2021, Combs became a WhyArts Teaching Artist and is also excited to work as a teaching artist and independent artist at OCP. She thanks the universe every day for her amazing family, Greg, Evan and Eirin; "You are my heart!"



Delaney Jackson *She/Her/Hers*
Macy

Delaney Jackson is thrilled to make her Omaha Community Playhouse debut as Macy in *The Cake*. Previous theatre credits include Regan and Ensemble in *Storm Still* (2022), a *Juno's Swans Production* at Bancroft Market, Cordelia in *King Lear* (2022) at BLUEBARN Theater, and Mary/Peter/

Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* (2021) at The Rose Theatre. Jackson recently received her bachelor's degree in theater from the University of Nebraska Omaha and is currently an education coordinator at Omaha Performing Arts.



Roz Parr *She/Her/Hers*
Jen

Roz Parr is excited to return to the Omaha Community Playhouse after appearing during the 2021/22 season as Greta in *Murder on the Orient Express* and Edna in *Bright Star*. Other theater credits include Jude in *The Last Supper* at SNAP! Productions, Pamela/Margaret/Annabella in

The 39 Steps at the Chanticleer Theater, Aggie in *The Game's Afoot* at Florence Community Theater, Belle in *A Christmas Carol*, and Pauline in *One Man, Two Guvnors*, both at OCP. Parr would like to thank her family for supporting her love of acting, especially when they served as unwilling audience members for her in-home performances as a kid.



Doug Rothgeb *He/Him/His*
Tim

Doug Rothgeb is honored and overwhelmed by this opportunity to bring Tim to life in *The Cake*. Rothgeb is grateful to Kim, Kathleen, Roz, Delaney, Paige, Amber, Sarah Lynn, and the entire crew at the Omaha Community Playhouse for allowing him to join them on this journey.

Rothgeb says, "This experience, like cake, has been extremely sweet." As an actor, he's performed in various stage productions from Shakespeare to musicals in his 30-plus years of performing and has won numerous performance awards. Most recently, he won Outstanding Performance by an actor at the 2017 American Association of Community Theatre's Regional Festival and Best Supporting Actor at the 2016 Nebraska Association of Community Theatres' State Festival. As an improv comedian, Rothgeb has performed by just "making stuff up" in thousands of shows on stages all over the country. He is the executive director and co-founder of the nonprofit organization Big Canvas with the mission of "Comedy for Everyone," found in the Blackstone Theater in Omaha. Big Canvas is Omaha's premier family-friendly improv comedy troupe, delivering team building, corporate training, classes, workshops, and shows that focus on the foundations of improv. Rothgeb has been connecting improv and life for nearly 30 years with presentations and workshops for hundreds of companies and organizations throughout the Midwest.



PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS



Kim Clark-Kaczmarek
Director

Kim Clark-Kaczmarek is excited to be back at the Omaha Community Playhouse, but this time directing. Her most recent appearance at OCP was in last season's *A Christmas Carol* as Nell and Mrs. Dilber. Clark-Kaczmarek has a Bachelor of Science in theatre from Nebraska Wesleyan

University and a Master of Arts in theatre from the University of Nebraska Omaha. She has been very active in the metro area working as an actor, director and teaching artist for the past 25 plus years. She has worked with Nebraska Shakespeare, The Rose Theater, Bellevue Little Theatre, Brownville Village Theatre, Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Living Picture Project, and numerous area schools. Clark-Kaczmarek is the director of programming for WhyArts, Inc. and a teaching artist for the Nebraska Arts Council Artists in Schools program. Over the holidays, you will see her in OCP's production of *A Christmas Carol*. She is most proud to share her love of the arts with her family, Anthony and Stella, who have also made many appearances on the OCP stage.

Paige Amick
Stage Manager

Paige Amick is excited to return to OCP to stage manage *The Cake*, after stage managing *Outside Mullingar*. Previous OCP credits include stage managing for *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise*, dresser for *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, spot operator for *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Last Five Years*, *Once* and *A Christmas Carol*, and light operator for *The Drawer Boy* and *Constellations*. She is a compliance officer at the University of New Hampshire.

Amber Franklin *She/Her/Hers*

Assistant Director/OCP Directing Fellow

Amber Franklin is delighted to return to the Omaha Community Playhouse as an assistant director and fellow for *The Cake*. Last season she made her OCP debut as the assistant director of *The Giver* and was also part of the OCP Directing Fellowship for the 2021/22 season. Franklin graduated from Spelman College with a degree in theatre and is a senior administrative assistant at Nebraska Medicine.

John Gibilisco
Sound Designer

John Gibilisco began volunteering with the Omaha Community Playhouse in 1977 and has been a member of the staff since 1988. OCP credits include *I Am My Own Wife*, *Grounded*, *Once*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Rocky Horror*

Show (2019), *Annie* (2019), *Sweat, Of Mice and Men, Singin' in the Rain, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Superior Donuts, Rock of Ages, To Kill a Mockingbird, Caroline, or Change* (Theatre Arts Guild Award), *A Christmas Carol, Les Misérables, Bat Boy: The Musical* (Omaha Entertainment and Arts Award), *Swing!* (OEA Award), *South Pacific* (TAG Award), *Ragtime* (2006, TAG Award), and *Starkweather* (TAG Award), among many others. John even stepped out from behind the curtain and appeared on stage in the OCP's productions of *Mr. Roberts* and *The Three Musketeers*.

Sophie Knauss Scenic Designer

Sophie Knauss is a scenic designer and visual artist based in Omaha and is incredibly excited to make her OCP design debut. When she is not working on a production, she works as the performing arts theater and piano associate at the Jewish Community Center of Omaha. She would like to thank her mentor, Steven Williams, for helping her grow as a designer, and a special shout out to Esther and Lauren for their love and support.

Sarah Lynn Brown *She/Her/Hers* Intimacy Director

Sarah Lynn Brown has worked as an actor, director, adaptor, and educator for the past 20 years. She has worked for Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Nebraska Shakespeare, Utah Shakespeare, NTC Productions, Denizen Theatre, Folger Library Theatre, the BLUEBARN, Omaha Performing Arts, Omaha Symphony, Opera Omaha, University of Nebraska Omaha, Creighton University, and The Rose Theatre. Sarah Lynn has also taught and directed in numerous Nebraska metro high schools and middle schools. In 2016, she founded an all-female Shakespeare production program, *Juno's Swans*, which explores gender identity and performance using creative character/movement development techniques, which recently produced *Storm Still* (adaptation of *King Lear*) at the Bancroft Street Market in Omaha. Most recently, Sarah adapted/directed *Hamlet* for the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company and will direct *Macbeth* at Duchesne Academy, *Every Brilliant Thing* at Lamplighter Theatre and *Cinderella* at The Rose Theater this fall. She is currently on the Nebraska Arts Council Artist Roster and Education Service Learning Unit as a storytelling, adaptation and mindfulness educator. Sarah has her master's in theatre education from the University of Northern Colorado and has been studying consent and intimacy training with Theatre Intimacy Education for two years.

Erica Maholmes *She/Her/Hers* Lighting Designer

Erica Lauren Maholmes is a designer, assistant, and technician for live theatre and dance. She has worked for Chicago Shakespeare Theater as an assistant lighting designer, *The Notebook: A New Musical* at Cleveland Play

House as a lighting apprentice, Illinois Shakespeare Festival as the master electrician, Longwood Gardens as a performance technician, *The Fairy Doll* as a lighting designer at the Kansas Ballet Company, *The Gradient* as an assistant lighting designer at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and Alley Theatre as a co-lighting designer for *Amerikin*. Her design portfolio has been displayed internationally at the 2019 Prague Quadrennial as part of the Emergence Portfolio Library. She has a bachelor's degree and master's in fine arts and is an alumna of the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas, West Chester University and Illinois State University. Maholmes is a proud member of the Black Theatre Network and Design Action.

Andrew Morgan Properties Master

Andrew Morgan is the resident properties master at the Omaha Community Playhouse. Previous theatre credits include props apprentice for *Thoughts of a Colored Man* at Syracuse Stage, props intern for *Fun Home* and *King of the Yees* at Baltimore Center Stage, props master for *Machinal* at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and props designer for *Curious George and the Golden Meatball* at Red Branch Theatre Co. He has a bachelor's degree in theatre design and production from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Outside of theatre, Morgan builds replica props from Star Wars, Marvel and other things. He also streams live content on Twitch.

Jocelyn Reed Costume Designer

Jocelyn Reed is excited to return to OCP as the costume designer for *The Cake*. Reed made her OCP debut as the assistant director for *The Mystery of Irma Vep*. Previous theatre credits include various roles as the hair and makeup designer for Brownville Village Theatre's 2021 season, ensemble in *Little Wars* at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) and Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Whatsername/costume designer for *American Idiot* at Stage 9 and costume designer for *Blood at the Root* at the Union for Contemporary Art. Reed is currently a student and studies theatre and black studies at UNO. Reed enjoys creative writing, pretending to be a contestant on The Great British Bake Off and mastering cartwheels.



AUTHOR BIO



Bekah Brunstetter

Bekah Brunstetter hails from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and currently lives in Los Angeles. As a TV writer and producer, she has written for *Switched at Birth*, *American Gods*, *This Is Us* and *Maid* (Netflix, 2021). She is currently developing a TV adaptation of the musical *Oklahoma!* with John Lee Hancock and Skydance Television. She has previously developed content with Bad Robot and Hulu. As a playwright, her work has been staged and developed by The O’Neill Playwright’s Conference, The Atlantic Theater, Portland Center Stage, The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Naked Angels, South Coast Repertory, The Echo Theater and Ojai Playwright’s Conference. Her play *The Cake* has been produced over 80 times worldwide and ran off-Broadway at Manhattan Theater Club. She is currently working on Commissions for South Coast Rep, Manhattan Theater Club, Barrington Stage and Playmaker’s Rep. She is currently developing a musical adaptation of *The Notebook* with Ingrid Michaelson. She is an alumna of the CTG Writers Group, Primary Stages writers group, Ars Nova Play Group, The Playwright’s Realm, the Women’s Project Lab, and the Echo Playwright’s Group.



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A Promise to Our Community

OCP will be a creative home for everyone. We will use theater to break down barriers rather than to build them up. We will listen to those who have been systematically oppressed and felt excluded in order to better serve our community.

CREW

Lightboard Madeline McCrae
 Soundboard Elizabeth Greer, Jennifer Reiche
 Properties Crew Megan Grisinger, Isabella Loftus, Beth Friedman
 Properties Artisan Lindsey Day
 Stitchers Emily Callahan, Judy Glesne, Bethany Clinch
 Wardrobe Lead Katelyn Means
 Dressers Bethany Clinch, Jan Morrison, Amy Crom
 Wardrobe Coordinator Bradley Pesarchick
 Intimacy Director Sarah Lynn Brown
 Scenic Designer Advisor Steven L. Williams

TTAP

Senior Apprentices

Izzy Coonfare
 Ayanna Keegan
 Liliana McMahan

Junior Apprentices

Nessie Mass
 Ally Newman

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Costume Care Sponsor:



Season Cast Dinner Sponsor:

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OCP Thanks: **Hailey Vinter of crumb coat & chill**



A NOTE TO OUR PATRONS

Actors find many ways to prepare for a role. They do extensive research and come to rehearsal prepared with pages of thoughts and notes. They take trips to landmark destinations that are significant to the play. Or they bake. Kathleen Combs, did just that. The OCP staff were the great recipients of Kathleen's baked creations as she dove into the world of Della, the ultimate cake baker. We enjoyed cakes such as devil's food, carrot cake, pineapple upside-down, red velvet, vegan, and my favorite—pink lemonade. And let me tell you—these cakes were DELICIOUS. With tighter waistbands, we are all much more sophisticated cake connoisseurs.

As we inch toward the end of the year and the holidays, I would humbly like to ask you to consider two things that will benefit OCP. The first is to **donate to our Artists' Fund**. Last season, OCP made the decision to begin uniformly compensating all performers (19 and older) for the first time in OCP's long and storied history. From artist compensation comes equitable opportunities, talent attraction and retention, and gratitude for our wonderful artists. **Please consider making a 100% tax-deductible donation today.**

The second ask is to consider **giving the gift of theatre** for the holidays. We have 6-show season packages, 3-show season packages, and gift certificates that make for wonderful holiday gifts. Our wonderful Box Office staff and volunteers can assist you.

Thank you for being here and enjoy *The Cake!*

Katie Broman
OCP Executive Director

Donate today to help OCP keep staging top-tier shows!

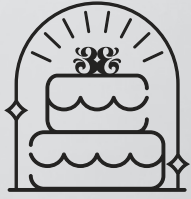


As a nonprofit theatre, the Omaha Community Playhouse relies on the support of generous community members like you!

OmahaPlayhouse.com/Support



QUESTIONS? Contact: development@omahaplayhouse.com or (402) 553-4890.



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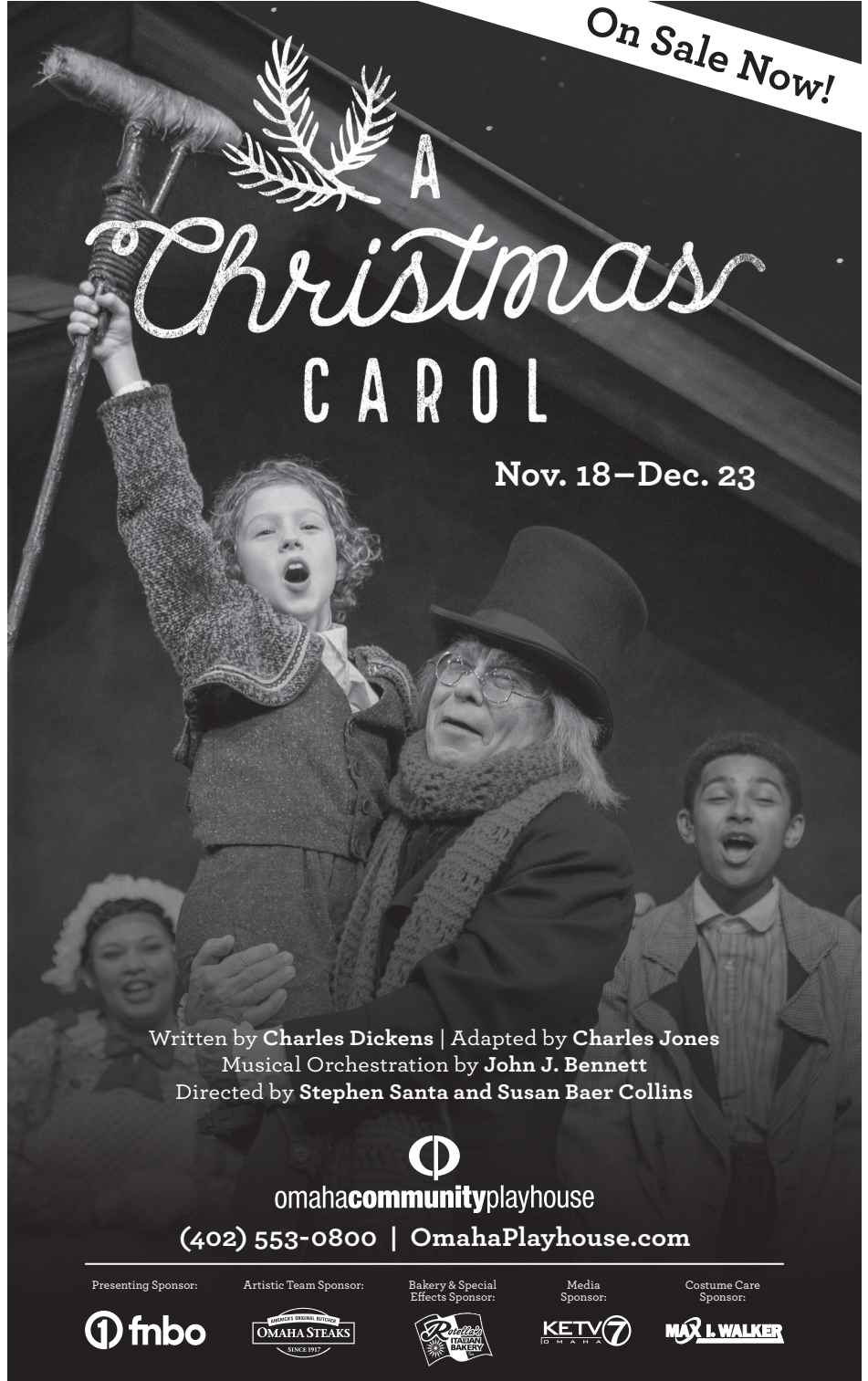
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Sensory Kits Now Available

You can check out a sensory kit from the OCP Box Office year-round! These sensory kits, developed with the help of Autism Action Partnership, include a variety of sensory support items that can provide additional comfort to patrons with autism during their visit to OCP. To check out a sensory kit, stop by the OCP Box Office anytime!

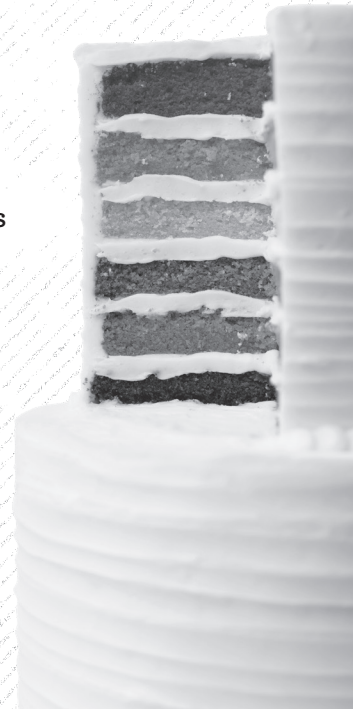


Thank you to our community partner, Autism Action Partnership, for their assistance in creating enriching opportunities for those with autism here at OCP.

Special Thanks

OCP extends special thanks to all of the vendors and individuals who have donated cakes for performances of this show.

As you leave tonight, please take a few moments to look at the digital signs in the lobby and join us in thanking these wonderful community partners.



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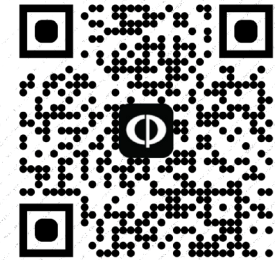
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The Legend of Georgia McBride

Aug. 19 – Sept. 18, 2022

School of Rock

Sept. 16 – Oct. 16, 2022

The Cake

Oct. 7 – Nov. 6, 2022

A Christmas Carol*

Nov. 18 – Dec. 23, 2022

Sister's Christmas Catechism*

The Mystery of the Magi's Gold

Nov. 25 – Dec. 23, 2022

**Special Events are not part of subscription packages*

August Wilson's Fences

Jan. 20 – Feb. 12, 2023

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Feb. 10 – March 19, 2023

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In the Heights

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Registration for fall workshops is open!

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Ages 12-18 | Saturday, Oct. 29
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Stage Combat Workshop

Ages 15-18 | Saturday, Nov. 19
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Stage Combat Workshop

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Katy Kepler	DJ Tyree

OCP Directing Fellowship

In an effort to support the development of future Omaha directors, Omaha Community Playhouse recently established the OCP Directing Fellowship Program. The Fellowship provides early and mid-career directors opportunities to develop their skills by serving as an assistant director to one of the season's plays or musicals and to take part in Fellowship Roundtable discussions and workshops related to the art of directing for the theatre.

OCP would like to congratulate the 2022/23 class of the OCP Directing Fellowship:

SophiaRose Brown	Lucas Perez-Leahy
Shannon Chin	Jon Roberson
Anna Dragon	TammyRa'
Amber Franklin	Mackenzie Zielke
Brock McCullough	

Visit OmahaPlayhouse.com for more info.



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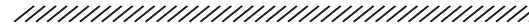
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